

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 SP-03 AID-20 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TAR-02 L-03 SWF-02 DRC-01 /125 W

----- 083787

R 300900Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2217

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 7037

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS

REF STATE 110296

PASS AGRICULTURE

1. MAF OFFICIALS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT USDA ESTIMATE THAT WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION COULD EXPAND BY 20-25 PERCENT IN 1975 CONSIDERING THE PRESENT LIVESTOCK SITUATION, ESPECIALLY WITH BEEF PRODUCTION. WHILE MAF AWARE OF GLOBAL PROBLEMS CHIEFLY CONCERNED WITH DOMESTIC SITUATION. PROGRAMS TO ASSIST PORK AND POULTRY PRODUCERS WERE ANNOUNCED APRIL 1. CONTINUING DIFFICULTIES WITH LOW BEEF PRICES AND HIGH FEED COSTS HAVE RESULTED IN THE CONSIDERING PROGRAMS TO ASSIST BEEF PRODUCTION. MAF EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE MAY 31 FOLLOWING BEEF PROGRAMS:

A. AUTHORIZED SUBSIDIZE STORAGE COSTS ADDITIONAL 10,000 OR MORE BEEF CARCASSES. GOAL IS TO INCREASE BEEF PRICES.

B. LOW INTEREST LOANS - 4 PERCENT - WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO BEEF PRODUCERS TO PURCHASE FEEDER CATTLE AND REPAY COMMERCIAL LOANS.

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C. 1974 BEEF IMPORT QUOTA WILL NOT BE ALLOCATED UNTIL BEEF

WHOLESALE PRICES IMPROVE. LIPC AND PRIVATE BUSINESS WILL BE REQUESTED TO DEFER MARKETING STOCKS AT PRESENT TIME.

D. BEEF CONSUMPTION WILL BE PROMOTED AND RETAILERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK LOWER GRADE BEEF AT DISCOUNTED PRICES.

E. EFFECTS OF THIS PROGRAM WILL BE EVALUATED IN SEPTEMBER.

2. BEEF CONSUMPTION HAS BEEN RUNNING AT ABOUT 12 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR SINCE NOVEMBER 1973. INFLATION AND A DECLINE IN REAL GNP HAS RESULTED IN CONSUMERS SWITCHING FROM BEEF TO LOWER PRICED MEAT, RICE AND WHEAT PRODUCTS. MAF OFFICIALS FEEL PRICES AND CONSUMPTION SHOULD IMPROVE BY FALL WHICH WOULD PERMIT ALLOCATION 1974 BEEF IMPORT QUOTA. DECONTROL JUNE 30, 1974.

3. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSION WITH MAF OFFICIALS DESCRIBED ABOVE, EMBASSY RAISED POINTS CITED REFTEL WITH FOREIGN OFFICE (SECOND NORTH AMERICA DIVISION). LATTER MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE BUT PROMISED STUDY EMBASSY PRESENTATION.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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